

Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center

Contracting Specialty Courses— From Cradle to Grave

P. A. BARNES

As the instructor moves about the classroom delivering his lecture on facilities contracting, a camera tracks him, hanging on his every word and displaying his image on a monitor. A student asks a question and the monitor clicks to display her image. And so it goes throughout the class, the monitor switching back and forth between teacher and students. In today's age of technology, televising a course is nothing new. Almost all

MOREELL HALL, NAMED AFTER NAVY ADM. BEN MOREELL, "FATHER OF THE SEA BEES," AND HOME TO THE NAVAL FACILITIES CONTRACTS TRAINING CENTER, PORT HUENEME, CALIF.



WITH A PORTRAIT OF NAVY ADM. BEN MOREELL, "FATHER OF THE SEA BEES" AS A BACKDROP, MEMBERS OF THE NFCTC STAFF WELCOME THE DSMC COMMANDANT. PICTURED FROM LEFT:

DEBORAH SCHULTZEL, OPERATIONS DIVISION DIRECTOR, NFCTC; SHARI DURAND, DIRECTOR, NFCTC; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; CHRIS SCOTT, DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC ISSUES, NFCTC.



Barnes is a professional journalist with over 24 years' government service. She is retired from the U.S. Army Reserve, where she served in the Public Affairs and Communications Media career field. She is a recipient of the Army's Keith Ware Award for Excellence in Journalism.

major universities employ students to film lectures, which are broadcast to classrooms elsewhere. But no person is operating the camera at this school. The instructor is wearing an infrared, voice-activated microphone that allows the camera to track his movements throughout the classroom. The students have "push-to-talk" microphones that focus the camera on them when they speak. Moreover, the instructor and half of the class are in Port Hueneme, California, while half of the class

is in Arlington, Virginia, thousands of miles away.

The contracting class is one of six Level I and Level II Defense Acquisition University (DAU) courses offered by the Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center (NFCTC), a state-of-the-art instructional facility that is a member of the DAU consortium. During his briefing visit in March to the NFCTC, Army Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black, Commandant, Defense Systems Man-

agement College (DSMC), was highly impressed with the school, terming it among "the most modern and fully equipped training facilities in the DAU consortium."

History

The NFCTC was established in 1984 by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) to provide specific training in construction and facilities contracts. Its original staff comprised a director, secretary, and six instructors. In 1990, the Defense Management Review Decision 982 consolidated all DoD mandatory procurement courses for construction and facilities contracting under NFCTC. In 1991, NFCTC became a consortium member of the DAU. The school presently has a staff of 34.

Facility

Recognizing the need for an expanded training facility, a military construction project was approved to build a modern schoolhouse for NAVFAC's Con-



SALLY OSWALT, SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST, NFCTC; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; SHARI DURAND, DIRECTOR, NFCTC.



KATHLEEN WILBURN, NFCTC INSTRUCTOR, SHOWS ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT, AND SHARI DURAND, DIRECTOR, NFCTC HOW THE COMPUTER CLASSROOM OPERATES.



"WE ARE ON THE AIR"—SPEAKING FROM A CLASSROOM IN PORT HUENEME, CALIF., THE DSMC COMMANDANT AND DIRECTOR, NFCTC HOLD A DISCUSSION WITH DSMC PERSONNEL LOCATED AT FORT BELVOIR, VA., TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTANCE EDUCATION. STANDING: CHRIS SCOTT, NFCTC ACADEMIC DIRECTOR. SEATED FROM LEFT: TONY KAUSAL, AIR FORCE CHAIR, DSMC; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; SHARI DURAND, DIRECTOR, NFCTC; NAVY CAPT. JOHN LANGAN, DEPUTY NAVY DACM.

tracts Training Center. The facility was completed and fully occupied in December 1990. The Navy's Civil Engineer Corps Officers School, as well as NAVFAC's Procurement Measurement and Assistance Team, share the building with NFCTC. The 68,300-square-foot facility houses a library, nine classrooms with fully automated computer and audio-visual equipment, a computer lab for students, two fully equipped computer classrooms, an auditorium, a fully operational print shop that produces all student textbooks on-site, and NFCTC's new distance learning classroom.

Curriculum

Shari Durand, Director of the NFCTC, explains that she and her staff are committed to ensuring that those from the acquisition workforce attending NFCTC "receive the most current and useful information...We recognize that the legislative and regulatory changes in federal acquisition are a continuing challenge. We are working diligently to incorporate all of these changes into our course materials..."

She stresses that the NFCTC strives to be receptive to student feedback and suggestions. An example of a recently implemented student suggestion is altering the course length of CON 223, Intermediate Facilities Contract-

ing, from 13 days to 10 days. She adds, "We have fully automated our courses that are delivered on-site so that students receive the same presentation methods whether they take our courses in residence or at their facility."

Currently, NFCTC provides five mandatory courses and one assign-

"NFCTC's greatest responsibility is to provide our students with current and practical information and training so they can perform their jobs better. We have been successful because our faculty and operations staff are extremely talented and dedicated."

*— Shari Durand
Director, NFCTC*

ment-specific course, which fulfill the training requirements for those in the DoD contracting career field. The six courses are Level I and Level II and include—

CON 103

Facilities Contracting Fundamentals

CON 106

Facilities Contracts Pricing

CON 201 (C)

Government Contract Law

CON 223

Intermediate Facilities Contracting

CON 231

Intermediate Contract Pricing

CON 234

Contingency Contracting

Four of these courses, CON 103, CON 106, CON 201 (C), and CON 223, are specifically tailored for acquisition personnel involved in facilities-related contracting, such as architect-engineer contracting, facilities support service contracts, and military construction contracts. CON 231 and CON 234 are structured for all members of the DoD acquisition workforce. The school also tailors courses for non-DoD agencies.

Future Changes

Beginning in FY 98, NFCTC will significantly change its curriculum of Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA)—mandatory courses. DAU has established a core set of contracting courses that will focus on all contracting areas, vice tailoring the courses to particular areas, such as facilities or base-level contracting. These curriculum changes have been a team development effort by six of the DAU consortium schools. NFCTC's audience will be expanded to cover the entire DoD acquisition workforce.

Since NFCTC began offering DAU courses, the number of acquisition workforce graduates in the various courses has grown from 1,175 in FY 93

Figure 1.
DAU Graduates of NFCTC Contracting Courses by Fiscal Year

Course	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97*
CON 103 Facilities Contracting Fundamentals	180	211	290	261	281
CON 106 Facilities Contracts Pricing	241	291	254	396	359
CON 201 (C) Government Contract Law	343	337	385	336	440
CON 223 Intermediate Facilities Contracting	411	401	405	411	377
CON 231 Intermediate Contract Pricing			132	368	384
CON 234 Contingency Contracting				21	280
TOTAL	1,175	1,240	1,466	1,793	2,121
*FY 97 are projected graduates					

to an estimated 2,121 in FY 97. Figure 1 shows the various contracting courses and the number of DAU graduates for each fiscal year. Figure 2 shows the breakdown, by Service, of students taking NFCTC courses during FY 96. The NFCTC DoD mandatory courses have been evaluated and accepted by the American Council on Education's (ACE) Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction. Students applying for academic credit from degree-granting institutions are award-

ed three to four semester hours toward a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

Other Missions

NFCTC also supports the Navy's Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) School by providing faculty support for some of the contracting modules in the EDO's ACQ 201 equivalency course. Moreover, NFCTC offers NAVFAC Specialty Courses, such as Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives, Source Selection, and Environmental Cost-

Type Contracting. NAVFAC's contracting offices perform both pre- and post-award functions; therefore, these specialty courses address contracting from cradle to grave.

Inquiries about the Center should be directed to –

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Figure 2.

Service Breakdown of Students Taking NFCTC Courses, FY 96

FY 96 COURSE YEAR			
Service	DAU Courses	NAVFAC Courses	Service Totals
Navy	7802	3093	089
Army	670	2	672
Air Force	328	5	333
Marine Corps	11	17	28
National Guard	5		5
Coast Guard	1	7	8
Non-DoD		11	11
Totals	1,795	2,351	4,146

SHARI DURAND

Director,

Naval Facilities
Contracts Training Center



Shari Durand began her contracting career in 1981 as a SECNAV Contracting Intern at the Naval Regional Contracting Department, Naval Supply Center, Norfolk, Va. In 1983, she transferred as a SECNAV Intern to the Naval Air Systems Command where she worked as a contract specialist on both airframe, research and development, and avionics programs. In 1987, Durand was awarded a SECNAV Fellowship, which allowed her to attend graduate school at The American University on a full-time basis for two semesters. In 1988, she returned to NAVAIR as a Procuring Contracting Officer. She subsequently received a NAVAIR Fellowship for part-time graduate studies. In June 1990, Durand transferred to Navy Public Works Center (NPWC), San Diego, Calif., as a Division Director of NPWC's Contracts Department. After leaving NPWC for a brief period to work at the Resolution Trust Corporation in Costa Mesa, Calif., she returned to NPWC San Diego as the head of the Contracts Department. In January 1995, Durand transferred to the Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center in Port Hueneme, Calif., as the school's Academic Director. She was promoted to NFCTC's Director in August 1995.

Durand received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Athens State College in Athens, Ala., in May 1980. In 1990, she received a Master of Science Degree in Procurement Management from The American University in Washington, D.C. Durand was awarded a 1990 Competition Award from the Secretary of the Navy for her work as the Procuring Contracting Officer of the first low rate initial production contract of the Airborne Self-Protection Jammer Program. In 1990, Durand graduated from NAVAIR's Senior Executive Management Development Program. In 1995, she received the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award from NPWC, San Diego. She recently served as the Chairperson of a DoD Working Integrated Product Team on Past Performance Information for Services Contracts.